

Paul Wermer  
2309 California Street  
San Francisco CA 94115

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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Please keep the Bridge2Broadband and retain small & local ISP access to unbundled infrastructure both copper and fiber. This will ensure 1996 Telecommunications Act continues to work as it is supposed to work: enabling competitive market entry and encouraging new network deployment.

I know how important this access is, as I have been the beneficiary of excellent small ISP service and seen the problems in supporting rural communities.

I started with home internet in the early 1990s, with ATT as my ISP. Ten years later, my DSL service crashed. ATT informed me that they were no longer offering the DSL service plan I had, so I would need to "Upgrade" (aka pay more) for the same service. And, as a side note my landline failed because the DSL and landline used the same service, and so suffered the same hardware failure.

I switched to another DSL provider (Speakeasy), as I choose not to do business with corporations that use their service failure to force me to "upgrade" (A side note: ATT lost me as a cellular customer when they tried the same extortionate strategy on my cell phone service as well.)

Unfortunately, after a few years Speakeasy merged into Megapath - and lost interest in serving households and small businesses. Often a large companys profit incentives inhibit serving small customers like me.

As a San Francisco resident I was lucky to find Sonic.net a local, small ISP providing excellent DSL service (and superb responsive customer service) at lower cost than ATT, using leased ATT copper infrastructure. For some inexplicable reason, over the same copper wire, Sonic provided faster, more reliable DSL service than ATT. This is the competition we need to foster.

Sonic is still providing excellent service - and knowing that it has a customer base, Sonic can now invest in and expand their own fiber network. That fiber network is only possible because they could build a customer base on leased lines.

I've also had experience with internet in rural Penobscot County, Maine. For some reason the major

Telecoms are not providing anything resembling high speed internet to the ex-urban population. That's what happens when corporate profits are more important than serving customers. Small local ISPs have an interest in serving those communities if they can lease appropriate infrastructure at fair rates.

I use Sonic for both phone and internet - providing me with more reliable service at lower cost than ATT did. That is what competition is supposed to encourage. I eagerly await their fiber service in my neighborhood.

It is clear that ATT does not want competition - yet they have shown repeatedly that without competition they provide very poor customer service at excessive prices (I see ATT's business pricing for a non-profit I volunteer at - the business rates are ridiculously high for a small organization)

The big companies who were granted exclusive rights to install infrastructure long ago (telecoms like ATT and Verizon, cable providers like Comcast) would love to block competition. They appear to hate providing customer service (The service personnel are generally very good; it's the management practices that are appalling) There is no serious competition between ATT and Comcast in San Francisco, as near as I can tell. Customer complaints about both companies are very similar= and very common. There needs to be more competition - a duopoly does not cut it.

It is my misfortune that I have had to deal with ATT, Comcast and Verizon - and am happy to have been able to find other suppliers of services. All these small suppliers have relied on the ability to lease copper wire to provide their (much better) service.

The Bridge2Broadband is essential. It is the only way to provide a foothold to those companies who were NOT granted exclusive rights over 30 years ago. It enables their transition to their own fiber networks. It supports the objective of the 1996 Telecommunications Act which is still needed to ensure both access to high speed internet and fair competition in the marketplace.

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